RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Guiding Principles

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EPISCOPATE AND THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES OF THE CHURCH

(As authorised by the Advisory Council for Religious Communities and approved by the Diocesan Bishops, January, 1960).

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1. Every recognised Community should have a Constitution approved by the Advisory Council, declaring its Rule of Life, and mode of government. Each Community shall be free to settle its own customs, and to change them at its own discretion, always subject to the provisions of the Constitution, which Constitution, however, may not be changed or amended without the sanction of the Visitor.

2. Every Community shall have a Visitor, who shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions contained in the Directory. (32 *b*.)

3. The rights and duties of the Visitor are set out in the Directory *passim*. It shall also be the duty of the Visitor to satisfy himself that when there is an election of the Superior, the Constitution is obeyed.

4. The provisions to be observed in case of Dismissal or Secularization are set out in the Directory. (30. 31.)

5. The approval of the Visitor shall be required for all services held in the chapels or churches of the Community, save that where the members of any Community serve a parish church, the approval of the Diocesan Bishop shall be required for all services in that church.

6. It is essential that, despite liturgical differences, Religious Communities should continue to seek the closest possible integration with the life and worship of the Church in the Province and diocese in which they are established.

7. The licence of the Bishop of the Diocese is required:—

(*a*) For the church or chapel of the Community. The Bishop shall lay down rules as to the attendance of those who do not belong to the Community, other than resident guests.

(*b*) By any member of the Community in Holy Orders. If such a member officiates in some other diocese, he shall hold such permission as is usual from the Bishop of the diocese.

(*c*) By the chaplain, and any priest, not being a member of the Community, ministering regularly to the Community.

8. Without prejudice to the visitatorial right and duty of the Visitor of a Community, every Bishop of a diocese shall retain his right of visiting as Diocesan any Community House which is situated in his diocese, with regard to matters for which he is responsible, and in the exercise of his pastoral episcopal ministry towards its members.

9. No Community House may be established in any diocese without the permission of the Bishop of the Diocese.

10. A dispute arising between the Community and the Bishop of the Diocese, if it cannot be resolved by the intervention of the Visitor, shall be referred to the Archbishop and Bishops of the Province.

11. The Constitution of every Community shall secure to every member of the Community an ultimate appeal directly to the Visitor.

12. The Constitution of every Community shall contain a distinct recognition that the Community and all its members stand within the Anglican Communion, and accept its doctrine, and the discipline of the Province in which they are situated.

13. The Constitution of every Community shall contain certain regulations as to the holding and disposing of property, by the Community corporately, and by its members individually.

14. No Novice shall be admitted to temporary Vows under the age of eighteen, nor, without the consent of the parent or guardian, under the age of twenty-one. It must be made clear to all Novices before they enter upon the Noviciate, that they are free to withdraw from the Community during its course.

15. No person shall be admitted to permanent Vows under the age of twenty-five.

16. If it is desired that any Brother of a Community should be ordained, the final decision will rest with the ordaining Bishop. Acceptance of any Brother of a Community as a candidate for Ordination shall be governed by a procedure agreed upon between the Advisory Council for Religious Communities, and the Central Advisory Council for the Ministry.

NOTE.—The case of a Theological College, attached to, and run by a Religious Community, has not been taken into consideration, in formulating these Principles.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE RELATION OF BISHOPS AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

The present Council consists of:—

Chairman, appointed by the two Archbishops: The Bishop of Exeter.

Appointed by the Bishops: The Bishops of Oxford, Ely, Chichester and Leicester, Canon E. W. Kemp and the Reverend F. E. P. Langton.

Elected by the Religious Communities: The Abbot of Nashdom, Father Dalby, S.S.J.E., Father Hume, S.S.F., Father Jonathan Graham, C.R., and Father David, S.S.F.

The last two of these elected members were co-opted by the Council to replace Father Raynes, C.R., who died, and Father Denis Marsh, S.S.F., who resigned on grounds of ill health. The remaining elected member was the late Dean of Wells. He has not yet been replaced.